

# **PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

## **Of the Suffolk County Legislature**

### **Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Public Safety & Public Information Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **November 15, 2005**.

#### **Members Present:**

Legislator Angie Carpenter • Chairperson

Legislator Pete O'Leary • Vice•Chair

Legislator Daniel Losquadro

Legislator David Bishop

Legislator Michael Caracciolo

Legislator Lynne Nowick

#### **Members Not Present:**

Legislator William Lindsay • Excused

Legislator Elie Mystal • Excused

#### **Also In Attendance:**

Mea Knapp • Counsel to the Legislature

Alexandra Sullivan • Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Doug Sutherland • Aide to Legislator Carpenter

Greg Moran • Press Secretary to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Lisa Keys • Aide to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Frank Tassone • Aide to Majority Caucus

Paul Perillie • Aide to Minority Caucus

Kevin LaValle • Aide to Legislator Losquadro

Ed Hogan • Aide to Legislator Nowick

Carl Yellon • Aide to Legislator Kennedy

Alicia Howard • Aide to Legislator Montano

Lisa Keys • Aide to Legislator Caracciolo

Gail Vizzini • Director/Budget Review Office

Jim Maggio • Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office

Ben Zwirn • Assistant County Executive

James Dahroug • County Executive Assistant

Brian Beedenbender • County Executive Assistant

Jacqueline Caputi • County Attorney's Office

Richard Dormer • Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department

Roger Shannon • Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department

Robert Moore • Chief of Department/Suffolk County Police Department

Ted Nieves • Lieutenant/Chief of Department's Office/SCPD

Stan Grodski • Detective Lieutenant/Special Victims Bureau/SCPD

Joe Williams • Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services

Gil Hanse • Town of Babylon Fire Marshal

Anthony LoFerrera • Vice•President/Town of Babylon Fire Chiefs Assoc

Robert Kearon • Bureau Division Chief/District Attorney's Office

Hope Collazo • Director/Community Service Program•American Red Cross

Brian Schafer • American Red Cross.

Debbie Eppel • Public Information Office

Maria Perez•Lent • STOP DWI Coordinator

Douglas Death • Chairman/Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board

Mary McLaughlin • Suffolk County League of Women Voters

Michele DelMonte • Nominee/Suffolk County Human Rights Commission

Carolyn Peabody • Nominee/Suffolk County Human Rights Commission.

Donald Grauer • President/Probation Officer's Association

Daniel DelValle • Vice•President Elect/Probation Officer's Association.

William Mulligan • President/Superior Officer's Association

Vincent DeMarco • President/Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Assoc

Suffolk County Sheriff•Elect

Matt Mullen • Secretary/Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association

Noel DiGerolamo • Police Benevolent Association/Trustee

Lloyd Berko • Police Benevolent Association/Attorney

Chau Lam • Newsday

All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographer

**(\*The meeting was called to order at 11:46 A.M. \*)**

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I'd ask all members of the of the committee to please come to the horseshoe so that we can begin. And if everyone would please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Caracciolo.

***Salutation***

Thank you. Okay, before we go to the agenda or bring up any of the department heads, I would like to •• we've got two appointments on the agenda for consideration today, they're reappointments and I appreciate the fact that they have come down here this morning. So if Michele DelMonte and Carolyn Peabody would come forward, these are appointments to the Human Rights Commission, or reappointments. They have both served on the commission admirably and faithfully, so if they could just each introduce themselves and bring up any issues you'd like to in your past tenure and obviously your willingness to continue to serve.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

How are they Public Safety; can you explain that to me?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We oversee the Human Rights Commission, that's why.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Yeah, I know that, but how is that ••

**MS. DELMONTE:**

Good morning. My name is Michele DelMonte, I live in Old Mastic Beach.

**MS. PEABODY:**

Hi. I'm Carolyn Peabody and I live in Orient Point.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, you made quite a trip this morning. Thank you very much.

Before we go on, I just want to note for the record that Legislator Lindsay is out of town and has requested an excused absence. Ladies?

**MS. DELMONTE:**

I have been a member of the Human Rights Commission, I was reappointed in 2001, prior to that I had served from 1993 to 1997. I think it's an essential part of what we do in Suffolk County so that we really can protect the rights of people, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, we really do need to protect their rights, now perhaps more than ever.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. And you bring a unique perspective working with the County.

**MS. DELMONTE:**

Yes, Ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

In?

**MS. DELMONTE:**

Oh, I'm sorry, I work for Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Great. And I think that's really key, because anything that is discussed there amongst the Commissioners, you can bring that sort of real time perspective to it working in the office.

**MS. DELMONTE:**

As a matter of fact, our office just recently did a training for all department heads on ADA, the Americans With Disabilities Act, because it is something that's so necessary.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Great. Thanks, Michele. Carolyn?

**MS. PEABODY:**

Hi. I'm a Professor at the School of Social Welfare at SUNY Stony Brook as well and I've been serving on the Human Rights Commission for a number of years, actually I don't remember how many, but I believe it's somewhere in the neighborhood of seven because I was appointed at the end of I think Bob Hawkins tenure. And I'm working with the Human Rights Commission because essentially that's what I do, I teach about civil rights, I teach about human rights, I work on the •• I'm the Chair of the Southold Town Anti•Bias Task Force, I'm the liaison for few for the Human Rights Commission with the Southampton Anti•Bias Task Force, I also work with the Riverhead Anti•Bias Task Force, all the Anti•Bias Task Forces around on the east end. But essentially, I feel passionately about the importance of insuring that all people, regardless of the group that people are members of, that all people should be treated with absolute dignity and respect and that we should work as a County to ensure that people are treated with respect and to take whatever actions to prevent discrimination and to help people to move beyond their prejudices.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you very much. And Carolyn, in talking about your experience and involvement, you, too bring a unique perspective and we're really very, very grateful for the fact that you both came down. Does anyone have any questions? Legislator Bishop, or comments.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I certainly thank the Commissioners for their service and will support their reappointment. I just want to take the opportunity to ask them are there any issues that we need to be aware of that are occurring within your purview, are there any trends that we need to be aware of, are there any resources that are lacking? What do we need to do know, anything?

**MS. PEABODY:**

Well, we certainly have been very encouraged by the County's support of our office, of the staff, and Paulette Bartunek who is our outstanding Executive Director. But in order to be as responsive as they need to be, they need to have a full staff and so we would certainly encourage you to ensure that their office is staffed. Being sort of one of the two

representatives from the east end on the commission, we're totally thrilled that the office in Riverhead was opened as part-time, and there had been an extraordinary outcry from people on the north fork and the south fork about the fact that it's just unrealistic to think that anybody, you know, is going to come to Hauppauge having difficulties. So that's putting an extra pressure in terms of staffing as well but it's really needed, so that's one thing I would say.

**MS. DELMONTE:**

Agreed a hundred percent. We opened the office, reopened the office out in Riverhead one day a week as a result of some hearings that were held by the African-American Advisory Commission, so.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, thank you. Legislator Caracciolo.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Do either one of the candidates for reappointment have any perspective as to whether or not the commission should have subpoena power?

**MS. PEABODY:**

I believe we have it, we do have it through the Department of Law. The current Human Rights Law essentially allows for the commission to work with the County through the Department of Law to subpoena in the event that we need it. However ••

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

How well does that work? Because I know over the years there has sometimes been criticism or concern that it hasn't worked.

**MS. PEABODY:**

I think that what the situation is is that up until this point there has been •• because of the nature of the process and it's not something that's been used, so it's not actually been put to the test up to this point, as far as I know and as far as Michele knows.

**MS. DELMONTE:**

Also, one of the things that changed in 2002 is we became involved in mediation and also having an opportunity to do money awards and that has worked very well. We have done very, very well with mediation so things do not necessarily have to go through the court system. We're remarkably a litigious society to begin with, so if we can do it through mediation it would be much better and we've had great success doing that.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Are you familiar with the resolution that's before this committee that's sponsored by Legislators Mystal and Montano that deal with the Fair Housing Act and subpoena power that would be granted to the Human Rights Commission?

**MS. DELMONTE:**

Fair Housing Act and subpoena power, no, I am not familiar with that.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Okay, I would suggest that you become familiar with it. I don't know what action the committee may take today or the Legislature, but it's Introductory Resolution 1948.

**MS. PEABODY:**

In order to be able to work with HUD, we have to change the law somewhat, we're aware of that. I think that at the last meeting the text of the proposed laws had not been made available to us at that point.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Okay. Well, this resolution was introduced back in August or •• yeah, the public hearing was held in September. And essentially I'll just read you an abstract of what the Local Law would do, it says, "Enactment of this proposed Local Law would strengthen the procedures and remedies of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission in order to bring them into substantial equivalence with the Federal Fair Housing Act." It goes on to say that the Local Law would amend Section 83 •• 89•3 of the Suffolk County Code to provide that the commission shall have the duty to receive, investigate, pass upon complaints alleging violations of Chapter 89. The commission would also have the authority to make, sign and file complaints upon its own motion," apparently that's something you don't have authority to do right now, "and the Local Law would further amend 89•3 to provide the commission would have the authority to hold hearings and compel the attendance of witnesses and production of documents." Currently

the commission must have subpoena power through the Department of Law.

And I know historically, and I've been here a long time, that there has been this tug of war between advocates of subpoena power for the commission and otherwise. So when we get to the resolution, I have questions for Counsel as to exactly what this resolution would grant because I may have some reservations about granting outright subpoena authority to the commission.

**MS. DELMONTE:**

I believe, Legislator Caracciolo, that this works predominantly within the housing area. And if I'm correct, we are still trying to get substantial equivalency. All housing issues at this point in time in terms of discrimination complaints are handled by the State Division of Human Rights. We used to investigate them up until I think about four years ago, we did not have subpoena power in that area, we would just do the investigation and turn everything over to the State division; we have not been doing that because we have been forbidden to do that. And we do not have what is currently called substantial equivalency in terms of hearing those cases. So everything on housing is turned right over to the State Division.

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

Okay. And you're satisfied with that make•up, that situation?

**MS. PEABODY:**

Well, I think that one of the reasons is •• well, the two reasons, one is that there's the sort of inherent delay because it's •• when cases are pushed off to another level there's a longer process, and also the second thing is that handling the HUD cases locally would enable us to recoup some of the cost of actually conducting an investigation and actually finishing, you know, conducting the case.

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

Okay. I again will reserve questions for Counsel to expand upon what the resolution would intend to accomplish, but it seems to me that perhaps it's still a halfway measure, you know. Because while I am aware of those who advocate subpoena power and I'm somewhat guarded about to what extent you should have that, because obviously the State Human Rights Commission has subpoena power so we can call on the State to do that. In fact, years ago



there was a call to eliminate the County Human Rights Commission when I first arrived here back in the early 90's, so we've come a long way from that. If you are an effective commission, then I think each of us has an obligation to provide you with the tools to make sure that you can accomplish your mission; if not, we need to hear from you about that.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes, good morning, or is it afternoon? Yes, good afternoon. I would like to hear your opinion concerning the Police Department's investigations concerning allegations of misconduct on the part of their officers. Are you satisfied with the way the department is handling those investigations or do you think that there should be a change made vis•a•vis a civilian complaint review board? So what is your opinion regarding both, a civilian complaint review board and the manner in which the Police Department handles its in•house internal affairs investigations regarding allegations of misconduct by police officers?

**MS. PEABODY:**

I serve on the Administrative of Justice Committee for the commission and we've met several times with Commissioner Dormer and with his aides. Our •• from the very beginning our attempt has been to work with him and he's been extremely cooperative and I'd say proactive in trying to, you know, find ways to ensure that the procedures that the police utilize are fair and thorough. We certainly are concerned that, you know, relying on internal affairs or one's own brothers and sisters to investigate claims of misconduct have their limits. We have at different times in the past engaged in studies of the existing models of civilian review, not limited to a review board in particular but also in terms of the hiring of let's say an internal monitor, procedural monitor that works essentially in conjunction with an outside body such as the Human Rights Commission or another commission to essentially just review procedures rather than be punitive. So we have been exploring the idea and the issues concerned about, you know, the need to ensure that people who make complaints about conduct of the police be taken seriously and we've been engaged in an ongoing discussion with Commissioner Dormer. You know, up to this point we have not at this point promoted a civilian review board because we're trying to see how the •• how his interim efforts, you know, are playing out.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

So then you are satisfied with the way the department is currently handling those investigation?

**MS. PEABODY:**

At this time. Because as I said, we've been meeting, you know, on a regular basis with the Commissioner and, you know, we have asked him about individual cases and asked him to explain and help us to understand the procedures. He has, you know, taken some excellent steps including, for example, something somewhat minor, what might seem to be a minor staff which is asking the police to have the police officers have their names actually be within view which makes people somewhat more responsible or accountable.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

That was a request of the Human Rights Commission, of the Police Department?

**MS. PEABODY:**

That was at a meeting with the Commissioner, he introduced that to us as one of the ways that he was taking as a proactive effort, it was initiated by him.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Oh, okay. So that was initiated by the department, not by the Human Rights Commission.

**MS. PEABODY:**

Right. And what we've done is basically been meeting with him to help us to understand what his steps are to try to ensure that what happens is fair.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Do you concur with those statements, Ms. DelMonte?

**MS. DELMONTE:**

I do. Also, back in the early 90's we did a great deal of research on civilian complaint review boards, we had people come in from the city, we interviewed them and, again, no specific action was taken at that time. But it's something we've done a lot of study, a lot of listening, a

lot of interviewing on and right now Commissioner Dormer has been very, very open to anything we've requested. So if you don't need to do it at this point in time, don't; if it's something that you do need at a later point in time then do it, you just have to be responsive to the needs of the people.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay. Thank you very much.

**MS. PEABODY:**

I just would like to add one other point and that is that one of our concerns was along the lines of potential racial profiling, and that has also been addressed by now •• the police officers, when they make stops, are required to note the ethnic background of the people that they are stopping, so we've seen progress. You know, we are in touch with people in the community who are •• you know, many of whom are •• express concerns and worry about whether or not people are being treated fairly, so that's why we continue to meet regularly with the Commissioner and we see this as an ongoing process.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah. I mean, I'm encouraged to hear that the commission is satisfied with the initiatives undertaken by the department to address your concerns, which translates to at this particular point in time there is not a need to pursue a civilian compliant review board; correct, is that pretty much the assessment?

**MS. PEABODY:**

At this time, until we find that the efforts that they're undertaking, you know, in some avert way don't appear to address the issue of fairness. I mean, at this point the Commissioner is taking steps that are •• the purpose of which seem very clearly to be in an effort to ensure that the officers are discouraged from treating people with disrespect and worse.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

But right now the mind set is not to pursue that avenue.

**MS. PEABODY:**

Right.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

But it may come a point in time in the future where you would be supportive of that.

**MS. DELMONTE:**

Correct.

**MS. PEABODY:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. I'm going to make a motion to first take 2082 out of order, approving the reappointment of Michele DelMonte.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed? It is before us.

***2082•05 • Approving the reappointment of Michele DelMonte as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive).*** Motion to approve, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

***Same with 2083•05 • Approving the reappointment of Carolyn Peabody as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive).*** I make a motion, second by Legislator Caracciolo to take out of order, and it is before us. Motion by Legislator Caracciolo, second by Legislator Losquadro to approve 2083. All those in favor? Opposed? Both resolutions are approved, will go to the Legislature on Tuesday. And thank you so much for your service and your willingness to continue.

**MS. DELMONTE:**

Thank you.

**MS. PEABODY:**

Thank you very much.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, I guess I will ask the Police Commissioner to come forward, Commissioner Dormer. There are a number of resolutions on the agenda that you may wish to address.

I understand this Thursday is the ceremony naming the Daniel P. Guido Precinct, the 2nd Precinct in Huntington, and it would be nice if any of the members from the Public Safety Committee could attend; I expressed my regrets to the Commissioner, I have a conflict. But I'm glad to see that that's finally moving forward, I know it means a lot to you, Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes. Thank you very much, madam Chair, and thank you to Public Safety Committee for moving that forward to honor Commissioner Dan Guido. This is an honor for the Police Department and also for the departed Commissioner and his family, and it was a good thing that we did. And I think all the members of this committee have been invited formerly and again, I extend an invitation to members if they can, you know, get away to come down to the ceremony and we'd like you to do that and thank you.

Before I speak on a couple •• there's two resolutions that I'd like to talk about, but I •• Legislator O'Leary mentioned the Civilian Review Board issue. I should mention for the record that discipline in the Police Department is reviewed by civilians and I should mention some of them. The Executive Branch that I work for, for the people of Suffolk County through the Executive Branch, they are civilians and they are obviously involved in the process; if there's anything untoward in the police service we have to answer to the Executive Branch. The Public Safety Committee, made up of civilians, we have to answer to the Public Safety Committee if there is something untoward that you want questions •• have questions and we'd have to

answer them appropriately.

The Human Rights Commission, again, as you heard the testimony before we came to the table, we have opened up a dialogue with the Human Rights Commission. We have regular meetings with them, we have people from Internal Affairs come in and explain how they do investigations, arrive at conclusions, how it's done; they're very happy with having that information available to them. We also give them our quarterly report on discipline within the department, how many officers are disciplined and what for, without giving out names, so they're privy to that. We have the District Attorney's office which reviews all serious cases against police officers, that's a civilian review. And finally, and I don't think I've left anybody out, we have the Justice Department who we work very closely with when there's an issue of community concern or complaint against the Police Department. They have access to our records, when they call for the records we must give them to them.

So we are pretty reviewed in the police service, if you think about it, we have all these checks and balances in place. So notwithstanding that, we think it's appropriate that we reach out to the agencies that I just mentioned and have a good relationship with them where honesty and fairness is the guiding light. We're open where we can and we're going to continue that, we're going to continue building relationships with the community. So I thank Legislator O'Leary for opening that up so I could get on the record with that because I think it's something that bubbles up every now and again.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you, Commissioner. Now are there any specific resolutions that you care to address before I open it up to Legislators?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes. I have Resolution No. 2026 and this is the resolution that establishes a policy to ensure •• and the language they use in the resolution, adequate police protection, I would quibble with that, I would call it maximum police protection. And the problem that I have with this, and I've got to tell this committee that it's a major problem in that it takes away the authority from the Police Commissioner and commanders, the authority to move their people around when they have to, when they need them, where they're needed.

If we pass a bill like this it will tie the hands of the Police Commissioner and the commanders, and that is not appropriate in this day and age with the static type of policing that we do. We set up task forces over night to respond to a problem, we utilize officers in a certain area because we may have a problem there, and notwithstanding that, we still maintain service to the community.

I should remind everybody, and I think you've probably heard this before, that crime for the past 18, 19 months in Suffolk County is down over 15%, that's all crime, and that includes Huntington, not just the rest of the County but also Huntington. Calls for services are down because of our alarm initiative, down over 9%, the alarm calls are down about 11,000. So we are efficiently utilizing the police officers that we have and we think that this would be a detriment to policing in Suffolk County to hamstring the Police Commissioner and the Commanders in how they utilize their people.

I should also mention that there's a lot of hidden problems with this, one is money. There's maximum staffing in Nassau County which the Police Commissioner has to live with, it's a contractual item. I talked to the Police Commissioner from Nassau County last night, I asked him how much his overtime was for this year and he said it's over \$40 million; ours is 23 million, approximately. Nassau County is a smaller county than Suffolk County. If we have to live by a resolution like this, you can see the cost for police services go up without a return on the investment, and I don't think that that's a good thing. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Is that it? That's the only resolution ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I could say a lot more on it but I think that suffices.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. And there are no other resolutions that you care to address?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, if I may.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Sure.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

The alarm •• the number is 2059 and it's to adopt a Local Law establishing responsible standards and controls for alarm systems. Generally I have no problem with this, over all I have no problem with an alarm law in Suffolk County. But I do have an issue with registration, where people have to register and pay a fee to be registered and the Police Department would be managing this.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Uh•huh.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

We don't think that this is necessary in the bill.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Have you spoken with the sponsor of the resolution about this?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, we've talked to their staff.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. And this particular bill is a Local Law so there will be a public hearing at the Legislature on the 22nd.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

So perhaps someone from the department can come down during the public hearing portion and raise those issues before the full Legislature, that would probably be helpful.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**



Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

You're welcome. Okay, we have a few Legislators then. If you've gone over the resolutions that you wish to speak on ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

•• we'll start with Legislator Caracciolo followed by Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Thank you, Commissioner, for your ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Before you begin and before I forget, we received a phone call from Legislator Mystal, he has a health issue that he needed to address so was not able to make it here this morning, so he has an excused absence. Go ahead, I'm sorry.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Thank you. Commissioner, as you are very much aware in conversations with your counterpart in Nassau County, that there are a lot of similarities but dissimilarities between the two counties in terms of demographics; would you acknowledge that?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Okay. So even though in terms of population they're almost equivalent with Suffolk being slightly more populated, there are differences in the amount of village police departments in Nassau and Suffolk, not tremendous amount of difference, the way the residents of Nassau County pay for Police District services •• I'm sorry, for police services is different somewhat than it is here in Suffolk. But I want to speak to the issue of crime and overtime because those were two areas you addressed.

And as I, you know, follow events nationally and locally throughout the State, crime is down across the board and there are a lot of factors. Certainly the way we provide police protection and patrol services is a factor and a deterrent in many aspects, but there are a lot of other underlying factors that supersede the best police service from preventing crime and demographics, again, plays a major role in that. We have an older population, particularly on the east end of Suffolk County than generally speaking Nassau County has, but I want to focus on overtime because as I just recall reading when they adopted the County budget in Nassau County a couple of weeks ago, just about two weeks ago, they •• the democratic•controlled Legislature made certain that they provided additional police officers for next year that were not included in the County Executive's budget, Mr. Suozzi's budget. And here we attempted to do the same thing, provide you with an additional 100 police officers and we've done that through a budget amendment and we're waiting to see what the County Executive is going to do. I understand from Mr. Zwirn and perhaps his body language that that's probably •• we're probably looking at a veto on that score. But Nassau County is sufficiently understaffed compared to what we are here in Suffolk County and I think that's why those Legislators there included those 100 officers and Mr. Suozzi, in fact, reluctantly but nonetheless agreed to go along with the funding of those additional police officers.

Now overtime, 40 million versus 23, I think right there you have the answer why their overtime costs are so exaggerated because they are understaffed. But my concern here is now that the County Executive of Suffolk has this budget amendment before him for additional police officers, hiring an additional 100 police officers, what's your stance on that, because I'd like to get that on the record.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, just as you were talking, and I appreciate •• I don't want to get into Nassau County's issues at all, I just want to deal with Suffolk County. With our civilianization, and I think I mentioned this to the committee the last time I met here with you, with our civilianization and our redeployment of officers, that is without civilianization, by the end of 2006 we are going to garner approximately 134 officers, I'm talking about back to the street.

This year we've had 82 retirements when we were expecting 132, but I think 132 was a little high. I figure that we saved 25 officers that didn't retire that we thought were going to retire,

that are still in the police service. We have 120 hired this year, actually it's 118 now but we hired 120 this year, next year we put in for a hundred in the budget. And if you total all that up, that's 379 officers in two years, more than adequate to do what we have to do in Suffolk County, to keep crime low, keep the community safe and do the things that the people expect us to do.

I should also mention that as we speak you talk about the east end, and I assume you're talking about the western part of the Police District rather than the east end departments.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Correct.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

We are at this time studying the sector car reach in the 5th, 6th, 7th actually the Police District and the Commanders are turning in a report to determine if they require new sectors or zone cars because of the demographics out there, especially in the east end. But we're also looking at the west end, we're looking at it from a wholistic point of view. That report should be in within the month and at the beginning of the year we're going to sit down and see, based on the personnel that we have, if we can increase coverage, sector coverage in the Suffolk County Police Department.

We, this administration, introduced a new sector in the east end; it hadn't been done before, we did that. We also put a zone car in a western precinct and we've told the commanders that they have the authority to do that when they need it, and a zone car, by that I mean a 4•12 car or a 3•11 or whatever fits into the contract to do that, they have the ability to do that. And again, that's what we use the overtime for, the \$23 million in overtime. And I should mention that we've come in about a million dollars under, as I speak to you, in the overtime that was requested by the Executive Branch last year. The reason that we're right on target is that the Legislature saw fit to take 840,000 of our overtime money last year and they took it to hire the 20 extra police officers, but we had to live within that budget; that's our mandate, to live within our budget, we don't go over it and we didn't.

I should also mention, in relation to the resolution on the maximum staffing, that if we wanted to put in sectors and work them two tours, if that bill was passed, we certainly wouldn't do that because it would mandate 24/7 when it's not necessary. It should be left up to the

commanders to decide and the Police Commissioner, extra sectors if they're needed. The changing of sector boundaries which we're looking at, because some of the work loads are different from one sector to another, they haven't been changed in years and we're looking at that, we're doing our own study but it's coming from the commanders and I think that that's important, the people that do the job in the precincts every day.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Let me ask you, at my request as Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee we were provided today a memo from our Budget Review Office, which we'll make available to you, of the amount of County employees and how many County employees are in various departments. And within the Police Department, I'm looking at a chart that is dated today, active sworn personnel Police Department, and back in February of '04 we had a staff level of 2,652 sworn personnel, as of the last payroll period •• and this looks like some time around September, I don't have an actual date •• but it does include the 120 new police recruits, 2,616 for a net decrease of 36 sworn officers; that seems to differ with comments you made earlier.

Now, on the other end of the spectrum, I know you're talking about going forward with civilianization, a net gain of over a hundred positions, but that •• I mean, that civilianization effort in the Police Department so far has only netted seven new civilians in the Police Department from February of '04 when we had 578, most of whom are school crossing guards, and now we have 585. So I'm a little bit suspect of numbers when I hear them. It reminds me years ago when as a criminal justice major I had a professor, Chief of the New York City Transit Department, Sandy \\_Gerelick\\_; do you remember that name, Commissioner, Sandy \\_Gerelick\\_ , Sanford \\_Gerelick\\_? He was the Chief, they didn't have Commissioners in the Transit Authority.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Chief Inspector, yeah.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Yeah. And I was a student in his class and he would come in and tout how turn style crime was way down and how subway crime was way down, and I did a whole paper on it at the end of the year, I totally refuted his whole thesis and his results, I mean, I just blew all kinds of holes in it.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

You were even a pain in the ass in school, huh?

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

No, I like numbers. The point I'm saying is, you know, we know numbers don't lie, people do, and I'm not saying you're lying. But I just become very suspicious when I hear statistics because they don't always bear out with those who boast them claim they do. But let me in this regard follow•up with •• Nassau County is part of apparently a new labor agreement, the PBA there has acquiesced to the County undertaking a study ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Good point.

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

•• for the first time ever of what the real and true manpower needs are of that Police Department. Do we have any initiative like that taking place in Suffolk County?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No. No, we don't at this point.

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

Would that require a collective bargaining agreement to do that? Because it seems to me that in effect what you're doing with your Police Commanders, with your Precinct Commanders is somewhat along those lines.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You know, we did a have a staffing •• the last staffing study that was done in Suffolk County was 1993 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and at that time crime was a lot higher than it is now in Suffolk County. And their recommendations, by the way, which were ignored by everybody, we tried to implement partially with this administration which was the Huntington initiative, that was based on that International Association of Chiefs of Police recommendation. Again, the demographics hadn't changed in Huntington, that's why it was picked and you saw the issues that came up with just two cars, not eliminating two cars but redeploying to when the calls for services were highest.

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

Yeah, refresh my memory, that pilot program which, you know, this administration initiated, again at the onset was touted as an answer to meet those community needs, but then in effect there was an admission by the Executive that the pilot program didn't work, and I applaud, you know, Mr. Levy for being honest about that. This is not a criticism, I don't want it to be taken that way.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

But my point ••

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

I think when you make mistakes you should own up to them and move on.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, but my point is that these studies ••

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

Was it a mistake, though? I mean, what was your opinion of that pilot program; did you concur that it was a failure?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I thought it was an appropriate way to utilize police resources.

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

It was or was not?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I thought it was an appropriate way to utilize police resources.

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

Then why was it declared a failure and why was it rescinded?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I don't know if anybody declared it a failure. There were some compromises worked out which, you know, I agreed to as Police Commissioner in consultation with the ••

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Willingly or were you twisted a little bit?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I think we should zero in on the staffing issue where an outside agency, whether it's the International Association of Chiefs or PERF comes in, does a study and nobody wants to touch it, and that's going to be the reality with studies. I may not ••

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Okay, that was my question.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That's from experience.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Are we moving in the direction to update that 1993 study, either in•house or using consultants, does it require union bargaining to do that?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, we can do that on our own.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

You can.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Okay. And is there any intention in the foreseeable future of undertaking such a study?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

We have discussed it, but at this point we haven't made a decision on it.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Okay. And in terms of these numbers and the numbers that you presented to the committee, I would appreciate a written response from you so that I can somehow reconcile these numbers because they're not adding up.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I should point out to you that when you look at the numbers in the Police Department, the total numbers, they don't tell the story. If you look at the numbers that are in the precincts, the patrol cars, that has increased dramatically.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Well, we also have technology efficiencies that we didn't have a dozen years ago.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, you know, the technology efficiencies really add to the workload, believe it or not, because you're now so efficient that you're catching the bad guys quicker than you were 20 years ago.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Well, that's a good thing.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, yes, it is, but it also creates problems for the system. I'll give you an example, we have plate scanners that are now in operation in Suffolk County, they scan every plate that drives on the roadway and can tell you if it's a suspended license, if they're wanted. And the efficiency of that thing, you just park on the highway and it catches the plates going both ways and it pings when you've got a hit, you don't have to go chasing people or stopping people or waiting for a violation of the law to pull somebody over. And now you're catching people with suspended licenses that are wanted for other issues because their plate number is in the system and we can download that into the police car and this scanner, which is mounted on the top of the police car, picks them up. You're going to see this technology increase, we're going to purchase more of these units to increase efficiency. But you understand the business, it takes an officer off the street now, he goes into the system, somebody has to handle that paperwork, handle



the summons or the arrest, we're going to be confiscating vehicles under a pro arrest system of 511's, you know, the suspended licenses. Again, you know, efficiency does not necessarily mean less work, it can mean more work for the system.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

So that means more police officers.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, not necessarily more police, but I like the way you segwayed into that. I'm talking about administrative people to handle the summonses and the arrests and the court system. You know, the efficiency on the street will obviously have an impact down the line in the system.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Yeah, my focus •• and I'm going to conclude. My focus is really on this issue of the additional police officers, what your position is. And clearly, you know, there are certain jobs that certainly can be transferred over to civilians in the Police Department without question, but there are certain job functions that are clearly and strictly the purview of sworn personnel. And I just want to make sure that going forward that this County has, as it has in the last 10, 12 years, continue the commitment to provide sufficient police personnel. And then, you know, add to the fact that we have a whole new plate of issues to deal with with terrorism, and I'll just stop there, that we have to be prepared to deal with.

So I just want to make sure that from a personnel, manpower standpoint that we don't, for the sake of a few dollars, shortchange the 1.5 million residents of Suffolk County. That is the primary service that every County resident, whether you live in the district or not, receives from this County government, that's our charge, to ensure the public's health and safety. You know, we could do away with almost every County department but the Health Department and the Police Department, and that's really the charge and mission of County government in this State and I just want to make sure we don't shortchange it going forward. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you. And you have my pledge that we won't endanger the citizens of Suffolk County.

I should also say that in 2004 when we came on board to this date, we have more cops on the street, the streets of Suffolk County than we did at that time, even though the overall numbers

in the department are down, and that's innovative management principals at work without endangering the public. And as I mentioned before, crime, not mentioned by just us but by the FBI, is down 15%, over 15% in 18, 19 months; that's remarkable. And I know it's down throughout the country, but we're down lower than just about any other place in the country with the same issues and same problems.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you, Commissioner. And Legislator Caracciolo, I think your points are very well taken and I would just like to reinforce something that was said. As far as the civilianization, I think that it is crucial to make sure that the positions or the functions that are being replaced by a civilian are, in fact, replaced, that you don't move someone out before that function is being addressed. And your point of our responsibility as County government to provide for the public safety is absolutely paramount and the only way you're going to do that is to have an appropriate, you know, number of personnel. Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. I just had a couple of points I wanted to bring up. Number one, I was glad to hear you mentioned the addition of a sector car again, something that we're very proud of out in the 7th Precinct and the additional staffing that we received. And when I run through the litany of other things I'm going to go through, I certainly don't want anyone to think I'm being greedy, it's just that there happens to be, and obviously it's something that you're addressing, a great number of years for the eastern sectors as the population has really skyrocketed.

You were talking about additional sector cars down in the Coram area just to the south of my district. Based on some of the numbers that I've looked at, I think an additional sector car is certainly warranted. And from my district's perspective, the car that operates on the south end of my district for the 6th Precinct it seems is routinely engaging in backing up the single sector car that patrols to the south of 25. So I believe an additional sector car south of 25 would go a long way towards allowing proper patrol north of 25 for the sector that that car is intended to be in.

As far as redeployment that you were discussing, one of the things that I have focused a great

deal of my time and effort on has been constituent concerns and one of those being the type of nuisance complaints that people have, speeding on secondary roads, running stop signs, the type of things that are referred to as patrol checks by the COPE officers, and I've been receiving a number of complaints recently that patrol checks have not been done. I've received •• and this isn't necessarily a knock on the individual precinct, it's certainly not. Where I'm going with this is I've received some information that COPE units have been backfilling units such as Highway Patrol recently. And I know one of the things that was discussed during •• as early as your confirmation hearing was the fact that this body was very committed to the community oriented policing. And I would very much like to see that continue, it's been something that has been a tremendous success. You talked about giving the individual Precinct Commanders the ability to utilize those officers within their precinct to the best of their ability and they've done that, but when those officers are taken out and put on other patrol functions outside of those individual precincts, I believe they lose that ability to be able to respond to those in•district type of concerns that we see, and I'll let you address that.

But just finally, I just wanted to ask for an update on the old 6th Precinct facility in Coram. And you knew it was coming, it was just a matter of time, so I will ask you what the status of that is. I know Department of Public Works has begun their assessment of the facility and hopefully has begun some of the remediation work on the building, and I know Probation is chomping at the bit.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Just give us one second, please.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Are you now or have you ever been ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

The 6th Precinct, when that's finished we said we'd put a presence in the 6th Precinct, we had already told DPW what we needed. You know, you probably know more about the status of that than I do; when they're ready they'll let us know and then we'll address that.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I just wanted to confirm that you have conveyed your wants and needs to the Department of Public Works.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, we have.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Very good.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, COPE, just •• and I know COPE is sacred to everybody and, you know, that was a Commissioner Dan Guido initiative, innovative initiative that's still living today, you know, and we like it, we think it's a terrific response to community concerns.

As we speak, from the day we came in till the last time I got the numbers which was a couple of weeks ago, there were three less people in COPE than there were in January 1, 2004. You'll hear people say that they've decimated COPE, we haven't, we're not going to.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No, I understand that those individuals are still assigned to the COPE units, but my understanding is they've been used to a much greater degree recently to backfill sector cars and even more recently Highway Patrol units which takes them out of their individual precincts entirely.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That has not happened yet. But as the Chief reminded me, this was a tactical task force situation, to address a specific traffic situation with Highway Patrol. Whether we're going to be working together, the multiplication of your assets, the more people you've got working together the more impact you'll have. That didn't start out yet, the Chief just told me, we may be doing something for the holidays, you know, where traffic fatalities and DWI enforcement. Again, Precinct Commanders and the Chief of Patrol, they manage that and Precinct Commanders are working with the Chief of Patrol on the utilization of all the resources to impact an area. For example, they'll pick the 7th Precinct for three nights and put everybody together and really saturate an area, and again, we get a terrific concern return on the investment, it's like a task force that addresses a crime problem.

Traffic in Suffolk County is a major, major problem, as we all know. You mentioned red lights and speeding, we talk about this thing all the time. We purchased extra speed signs that every precinct puts out now on their troubled highways, we have Trafficstat, it's a companion of Comstat but it just deals with traffic. We're going to have a meeting this week where commanders are going to come in and talk about the initiative to reduce crashes in Suffolk County, fatalities and injuries. It's an ongoing, very problematic situation. Sometimes I say it's easier to address a crime problem than it is a traffic problem, because with a crime problem we have a few people violating the law, with a traffic problem we've got everybody violating the law. And you know if you drive on these roadways in Suffolk County, it's getting out of hand. So we have an initiative in place on the Expressway, for example, to start lowering the tolerance for speed. So, you know, you're going to see an effort on the Expressway to right people that •• you know, I'm not saying they're doing 65, I don't want to give away any of the tolerance, but they don't have to be doing 80 to get a speeding ticket now; we have to do that, we've got to send the message out.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I understand completely. And in fact, I just wanted to say that I agree with you, I have always been genuinely opposed, and I've said this to you many times, to dictating to how your department should be run. So I agree with you with some of the comments that you made earlier about some of the pending legislation. But, you know, there are certain initiatives that are obviously very important to us to address concerns within our individual districts. And while I understand, you know, how to best leverage our resources, I don't think anyone would like to see that done at the expense of the individual concerns within the district. Because the person who lives at the intersection of Pine and Core Pine down in Coram who, you know, sees somebody rolling through the stop sign 400 times a day and can't get, you know, a car over there to take a look at it, it's not much solace to them that, you know, we're putting more assets somewhere else County wide.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, you know that Suffolk County is •• the stop signs in Suffolk County have increased tenfold. Everybody wants a stop sign and, of course, you know, the town responds and they give them a stop sign. So you could have a roadway that has five stop signs on it and people are rolling through these things, they're violating the law. And the officers, we have a limited number, even if you had hundreds more officers, you couldn't cover every stop sign in Suffolk County. And we really shouldn't be doing that, people should be complying with the law, you

know, they're there for a reason. It's the same with speed, it's the same with red lights, with tailgating, with cutting in and out. If you're on the Expressway any morning, you'll see some idiot doing this kind of stuff and, you know, regular folk are going out about their business. So the officers are writing the summonses, the quality of the summonses has increased. Moving violations that cause crashes, that cause deaths, this is what we want them to concentrate on, not just giving out an uninspected summons just to get a piece of paper, the officers know that that's not what we want, we want smart policing in this day and age.

Again, policing •• and I know this is a staffing thing •• is a limited resource, just like in any organization, you have limited resources. We think we have the resources to do the job, but the traffic we need compliance from the citizens and it looks like we're not getting it from most of them, unfortunately. And, you know, is that a police issue? We give out 40,000 speeding summonses in Highway Patrol a year and it doesn't stop the speeding?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, I thank you for those comments. I'll be checking with the Department of Public Works as to the status, hopefully we can move forward quickly at this point ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I want a shot at this.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

•• for the 6th Precinct. And I would just like to commend you on the implementation of the additional technology, especially with plate scanners and certain other technologies that have been implemented.

And I know I'm always drawing back on my experience from the private sector and I can absolutely concur with you that the additional technology and the additional efficiency just allows you to accomplish more work. So while a good thing and while it will in the end benefit the residents of Suffolk County, I commend your department and the officers of the Police Department for keeping up with the workload.

So thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you.

**VICE•CHAIR O'LEARY:**

Okay, we have a list, and even though I'm next on the list, I'm going to defer to Legislator Bishop who has asked to speak and I'll follow Legislator Bishop.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very gracious of you.

**VICE•CHAIR O'LEARY:**

You're very welcome.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

So Commissioner, you've accused 700,000 people of being lawless, since a majority of Suffolk residents in your opinion are not ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Are there any reporters here today?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Given that •• I would tend to agree with you, by the way. I think that the traffic compliance, traffic law compliance situation is grave, let's put it that way. Is there a •• have we ever looked at how much enforcement would yield actual change? What if we did have •• what do we do, 40,000 now, how many summonses did we issue last year? I mean, we're going up, right?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

What if we did 120,000, do you think it would have an impact; is there a point at which it would have an impact, is it hopeless?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You know, we've talked about this, I've talked to the traffic people that do this stuff and I said, "How about no tolerance for speed? If it says 55 miles an hour on the Expressway," which by the way, some of you might be surprised to know that it's 55 miles an hour on the Expressway.



**LEG. BISHOP:**

And what is it on Sunrise, 155?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And they said, "Suffolk County would come to a dead stop. You would have, you know, a revolution on your hands." Everybody understand that 55 miles an hour, you see somebody doing 55 miles an hour they're going to get killed, people are making gestures at them, running them off the roadway. So there's a tolerance built into the system. You know, the officers that do this, Legislator Bishop, are pretty smart, they've been doing it for a long time, they know what's safe, they know what's dangerous. Sixty•five may not be dangerous on the Expressway in a 55 mile an hour zone, just to be honest with you, it can be a safe speed, the cars are able to do that, they can stop, and if you're not weaving in and out and doing dangerous stuff, it's not a problem and the officers know that. So zero tolerance is not going to work, it doesn't work with any kind of enforcement.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Okay. Well, I would agree, zero tolerance is not going to work. But if we ramped up our •• considerably, you know, we kept throwing resources at traffic safety, more and more, would it have an impact is they question? Has anybody in a suburban County in America looked at that question? Is there a point at which you can •• you know. I don't know, you don't have to have an answer right now as we sit, but it would be interesting if you ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You know, the Chief is reminding me and I'm going back to my old traffic days that, you know, enforcement is the last resort. You know, education and self ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

So we're going to send everybody to safety town?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Self•discipline and compliance. Just like with law breakers. Again, I had mentioned before, crime, very few people commit crimes, the rest of the population don't commit crimes, so it's easier to zero in on the criminals than it is traffic violators. Heavy duty writing, we are doing



that right now. We have picked out locations where we're hitting them very heavy, that's intersections where there's a lot of crashes. The officers are now writing summonses at these intersections for moving violations, you know, the ones that cause the crashes.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Let me ask you to do this, because I think you're an administrator who likes difficult challenges and you like to gather facts and look at things differently. Perhaps you can have somebody take a look at •• you intuitively think 40,000 summonses are a lot, is that true; is there another jurisdiction in the country that's issuing more? If that jurisdiction is issuing considerably more, are they seeing better traffic safety than we are? I don't know the answers, I don't know if you know the answers now, but that's what I'd like to know. Because certainly the elected officials here, that's probably the •• it's got to be in the top five of what we hear about all the time and I'm sure as Commissioner you experience the same thing. And as I get older, I'm now over 40, I think that people are crazy the way they drive, so I guess it's just •• perhaps it's just a function of age.

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

You're 40 now, Dave?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Yeah. But, I mean, they're nuts out there.

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

You were a kid when you came here, you were 28 or something.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

A mere child.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes, he still is.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

He still is a mere child.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

If I may, Madam Chair. I know you're looking at the clock but, you know, it's not my fault they keep asking the questions.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

It's just the long answers that I have a problem with.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

The questions are short, the answers are long.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Given the state•of•the•public safety address that we had at the last committee meeting, we did have some of the information already. So, if you could.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I figured you'd get tired and you'd just say, "Get out of here," you know.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

No, we don't won't to do that.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

No, no, I have ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We want to see you each and every meeting.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I just wanted to mention quickly, we've initiated a drag racing enforcement initiative that you know about where we're going to be impounding ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Yeah, we read the papers, that's how we knew about it. But go ahead.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Trafficstat, I just mentioned Trafficstat, I mean, that's innovative, that's different. The plate readers, quality enforcement, quality over quantity, you know, zero in on the bad guys, the egregious violators. And the 511 which is the suspended license, and I know we have a special project going on, the 511 suspended license people, we're going to be arresting them outside their homes and their businesses because we're going to be able to identify them now that the State has given us their database which took a while to get. So these will have an impact we believe on crashes in Suffolk County, you know, and I wanted to get that in, that we are looking at this thing, you know, just like a criminal activity.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Which it is. Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Thank you very much. And I appreciate the comments and remarks and they were at length, but mine is a little bit to the point. I think it was this past year that the department received a recognition with respect to their uniform; is that correct?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

The best dressed.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

The best dressed department in the country was it?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I'm not sure if it was the country, but we knew they were the best •• I think they were second best in the country but best in the metropolitan area, in Nassau and Suffolk.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay. Well, that's even better then. What was the criteria you used in order to establish that, that it was the best?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I don't know what criteria they used.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Was it functionality, was it appearance?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Probably all that, I don't know what their criteria is.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All of the above?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That's one of the things I didn't look into, all I know is that we won the prize and I said, "This is terrific for our department."

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, let me get to the point then. It's been brought to our attention that you're considering changing this uniforms to a BDU, a battle dress uniform; is that correct?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, at the request of the police officers, we're in the process of changing the work, the daily work uniform of this Police Department which, by the way, since its inception has worn class A's which is a ceremonial uniform; I think you wore that, I wore it.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And as officers in the precinct say to me, "Commissioner, we're wearing the same pants and shirt that you wore 30 years ago." And in this day and age, by the way, and it's not just Suffolk County Police Department, New York City wears BDU's now, many Police Departments are going to them, they're very functional, they look good.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

The officers like them, we have modeled them in the 2nd Precinct and they like them.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

For those not familiar with the acronym, the BDU stands for battle dress uniform; is that correct?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Who's answering that?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I think •• you know, I'm lucky I got the Chief here.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Commissioner, did you hear what I said? For those not familiar with the acronym, BDU stands for battle dress uniform?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, battle dress. And ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. And is it ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

•• they were part of the presentation when we won the award for best dressed, they were part of the picture.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. But is it your statement that the police officers themselves are the ones who want to go to BDU's?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, they asked me if it was possible to go to BDU's and I said I would look into it. And then what we did was we did an experiment in one precinct on the midnight tour with different uniforms, we said "Okay, wear them for a few months, you tell us if you like them. We're not going to purchase uniforms for the whole department if you're not going to like them and they're not functional." They came back almost universal ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Currently there are ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

•• they wanted these uniforms and now we're ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

See, sometimes you're your own worst enemy because you go on too long. Currently there are some units that do, in fact, where the BDU's, the ES, K•9 and I think Marine Bureau, correct?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, they're the BDU's, yeah.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. And what's the anticipated cost of outfitting the entire department in the BDU's?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, it comes out to about even. We get a uniform •• you know, we requested monies in the budget, in the 2006 Operating Budget to cover uniforms, so it comes out to about the same as the other uniforms.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Is our information correct that it's about approximately a million dollars?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, that would be •• that's correct, that's pretty good.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay. And what sort of timetable have you established with respect to outfitting all of the department in BDU's, or has there been a timetable established?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, but I could see it taking a year, year and a half before everybody has them.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

It takes a while to get them in and we're going to have the name tags sewn into the uniform to make it more functional, so the name tags cannot be used or lost because of a struggle.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay. I just wanted to get that on the record as to what the intentions were because we had received information that you were leading towards that. So thank you for those remarks and comments.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

What's the difference between BDU's and what they have now?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Would that mean that the entire force would be dressed in those kind of khaki denim shirts rather than a regular uniform?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, they would be a regular blue uniform, Suffolk County Police. They look •• you'll know they're a police officer but they're more like •• a COPE officer wears them, and you like your COPE officers.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And they do very well with them so we figure that the regular cops •• by the way, they'll still have their class A for ceremonies.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Just a thought occurred to me; perhaps you may want to change the acronym, battle dress sounds like they're going to go to war or something.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I thought you wouldn't mention that.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Just a thought, you know, perhaps you may want to change the name of the uniform from battle dress to something else.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, it comes from the military, it's a military type uniform where they have extra pockets to carry equipment now. You know, they carry a lot of equipment; if you've seen an officer lately, they can't sit in the patrol car because everything is on the belt. And with a BDU, they can put some of their equipment in the pockets on the pants.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. Legislator Caracciolo had a follow•up question.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Yes. Commissioner, satellite phones, how many do we have in the Police Department?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

We don't have any right now, but we're looking at purchasing some. How many did we order, Bob? About 39, 40, yeah, we're ordering right now. You know, as you know, that's a good point, we had to look at •• especially in New Orleans, they had a problem with the phone system, the cell phone system and communications, so we're looking at purchasing them right



now. Federal funds are available for some of them, we're going to get them and we're going to introduce them in increments, where we need them.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Okay. Just to make you aware of it, if you are not aware of it, there was a budget amendment approved last week by the Legislature that Legislator Schneiderman and myself sponsored to provide additional funds for satellite phones. I think every one of us shares the concern that what happened in New Orleans with respect to command and communications was a massive failure and we'd never want to see anything like that happen here if we have any kind of a natural disaster or otherwise. Because the people, the residents, 20% of the residents of New Orleans that had remained in the city were clueless about what was going on, when they could receive, you know, medical attention or food supplies and so forth. And I want to make sure, and I've done this with FRES, I'm doing the same thing with you this morning, to make sure if you need 39 or 139, that you make sure you come to this Legislative body and get what you need. Because we have a lot of commands, we have a lot of inter-agencies that we have to communicate with at the Federal and State level as well as among the villages and towns, we have a lot of unique characteristics beyond a city like New Orleans that would demand good communication systems.

So if you're comfortable with 39, you know, so be it, but you may want to reevaluate that since additional money has now been set aside, unless the County Executive vetoes it. Even beyond that, within your own equipment budget, that should be a number one priority is communications in emergencies. Because as we all know, it's only a matter of time of when, not if, something is going to happen.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. Is that it? Any more questions, comments? Commissioner, thank you. We will get to the agenda in a few moments. I have the Commissioner of FRES coming up.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

And make sure they're compatible ••

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Yes.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

•• with FRES and everybody else, please.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Commissioner, thank you for your patience. And I promise you, next meeting you're going to come up first.

I guess perhaps you may want to address 2030, the PSAP funding?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Yes. What this bill pertains to is that the passing of the data collection bill a couple of months ago, FRES was charged with the collection end of it, all the PSAPs will be sending the information to us. We got approval, we have a SCIN signed, we're in the process of hiring a computer person off a list, a County list dedicated to be working with this and also a computer dispatch, but these were some servers that we needed to implement the collection and passing it up to the EMS Division.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you, Commissioner, for your thoroughness and brevity and really for your •• and I know I've said this before but it really bears repeating, you really did an incredible job. And I'm sorry Legislator Bishop isn't here to hear you because he really started the ball rolling on this whole discussion and you pulled everyone together and got everyone on the same page and is seeing this finally adopted. So I want to thank you for that. Does anyone have any questions or comments for the Commissioner?

You may want to •• I know I received an e•mail from you yesterday inquiring about the money for •• that we put in the budget for the parking lot, and the analyst just went to get the FRES analyst to come in because I really would like it put on the record. Because I know that we

were all in agreement that that was something that was very much needed because the parking out there at FRES is woefully inadequate and we certainly have the room to expand it. And I know you had asked about the backup radio room, I'm still waiting to get that information, so hopefully before we adjourn they will be in with that information. Okay?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you very much. And Jackie Caputi from the County Attorney's Office had asked to address the committee regarding Resolution 1868. Jackie, if you want to come forward, and then we'll get to the agenda.

**MS. CAPUTI:**

Thank you very much. The County Attorney had just asked me to express, in connection with IR 1868•05 which is another seizure measure, that she felt that we would need more staffing if this is enacted based on the fact that there's been quite a few seizure laws enacted in recent past. So she just wanted me to express that to the committee.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. Well, do you have any particulars on how much and what the cost is and is the County Executive, you know, willing to move forward with those positions?

**MS. CAPUTI:**

I don't have any specifics, but I probably could provide them if you want to.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. Well, then maybe we'll •• probably the best thing to do would be to table this pending that information.

**MS. CAPUTI:**

We appreciate it, okay.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you for coming down.

**MS. CAPUTI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, let us go to the agenda then. If everyone would please report to the horseshoe, we are going to be voting.

**Tabled Resolutions**

And we'll start with **1868•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law to protect Suffolk residents by permitting seizure of vehicles engaged in unlawful speed contests or races (Cooper)**. And pending the comments by the County Attorney's Office, motion to table by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

**1929•05 • Creating a Suffolk County Stop DWI Deaths Task Force (Viloria•Fisher)**. I know that the DWI Task Force that is in place in the County Exec's Office took some exception to this, so I think we're going to continue to table it. Motion by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

**1930•05 • Establishing a pilot program to study the use of electronic monitoring devices for DWI offenders (O'Leary)**. Legislator O'Leary?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion to approve, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

**1944•05 • Authorizing the release of contingency funds for continuation of County**

***policy utilizing Deputy Sheriffs for prisoner transportation and detention at Cohalan Court Complex (Option I) (County Executive).***

I think this issue was addressed in the Budget. Motion to table by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

***1948•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law strengthening the procedures and remedies of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (Mystal).*** Motion to table. That public hearing was recessed anyway, so motion to table by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? ***It is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

***1954•05 • 1944•05 • Authorizing the release of contingency funds for continuation of County policy utilizing Deputy Sheriffs/Correction Officers for prisoner transportation and detention at Cohalan Court Complex (Option II) (County Executive).*** This too was addressed in budget. Motion to table by Legislator Losquadro, second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

### **Introductory Resolutions**

***2006•05 • To establish a "Safe Communities Initiative" Task Force to study the expanded use of security camera systems to deter crime and assist law enforcement efforts in high•crime areas (Cooper).***

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion to table by Legislator Caracciolo, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

***IR 2013•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law to amend Article II of Chapter 270 of the Suffolk County Code to provide further protections under the***

**"Crack House Law" (Cooper).** Motion to table pending the public hearing on Tuesday by myself, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? ***It is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2***

***Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

***2026•05 • Establishing a policy to ensure adequate police protection for Suffolk County residents (Binder).*** Is there a motion? All right, I'll make a motion to table.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I know that we had passed a resolution to add an additional hundred slots for police officers, another police class next year, I think pending the outcome of that Tuesday then we can perhaps address this. So we have a motion to table by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

***2030•05 • Amending the 2005 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating Capital Budget and Program Pay•as•you•Go funds in connection with the purchase of Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) data collection equipment for the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (FRES)(CP 3416)(Carpenter).*** We heard this explanation from the FRES Commissioner. Motion by myself, second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? ***That resolution is approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

Legislator Bishop, you happened to be out of the room, but we did commend the Commissioner for all of his work on behalf of your initiative with the PSAP's and this is the final piece in the puzzle and we are going to see it happen before the end of the year.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you for your efforts.

**2033•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law to prohibit level three sex offenders from residing near schools, day care centers and playgrounds (Cooper).**

This, too, is pending public hearing on Tuesday. Motion to table by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Caracciolo. All those in favor? Opposed? ***It is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

**2059•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law establishing responsible standards and controls for alarm systems that require Police Department response (Cooper).** Same motion and same second on 2055, pending the public hearing. ***That resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

The next two, **82 and 83 have already been approved.**

That takes us to **2108•05 • Accepting and appropriating 100% grant funds received from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services under the project Safe Neighborhoods, Juvenile Justice Program (County Executive).** Motion to approve and put on the consent calendar, it's a 100% grant, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved and placed on the consent calendar (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

**Sense Resolutions**

**Sense 74•2005 • Sense of the Legislature Resolution requesting the State of New York to amend the Education Law to require that bus stops not located near the residences of sex offenders (Caracappa).** Motion by Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed?

***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal).***

And Jim, did you have the information on that?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I challenge anybody to find someplace where a sex offender is allowed to be.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Right. The parking lot and also the backup radio room for FRES •• the Police Department, do you have that update?

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Yes, \$175,000 was added in the Capital Omnibus Resolution for 2006, so the total amount in that project will now be \$350,000.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

On the parking lot or the radio room.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Parking lot, okay, so it is clearly identified in the 2006 budget, Commissioner. So after January, I guess we need to touch base with the Commissioner of Public Works and make sure that that project is fast and furious. Okay? Thank you. And did you have any information on the backup radio room?

**MR. MAGGIO:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

All right. Well, we'll hold that for the next meeting then. Thank you very much. The meeting is adjourned.



***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 P.M.\*)***